

WMP-IFT-928 - Application No. 10/666,221
Response to Office action November 7, 2006
Response submitted April 6, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested..

Claims 1-2 and 5-11 are now in the application. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 11 have been amended. Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled.

Support for these changes to the independent claims may be found as follows:

- ~~The magnetic coupling elements in the first and second transfer channels~~ were recited in the original claims 3 and 4, respectively.
- The added paragraph at the end of the independent claims finds support on page 11, lines 13-15, of the specification. As explained, only the signal pulses that are received within the data time window are accepted as the data signal.

Claims 2 and 6 have been amended in response to the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Should any further objections remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone counsel so that the matter may be resolved.

We now turn to the art rejection, in which claims 1, 2, 5, and 8-11 have been rejected as being obvious over Komatsu et al. (US 2003/0189984 A1, hereinafter "Komatsu") in view of Sharp (US 3,763,472) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejection has been carefully considered and the invention has been more carefully delineated in the claims. The amended claims are patentable over the art of record. Neither Komatsu nor Sharp disclose data transfer channels with a magnetic

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coupling element. Furthermore, neither reference shows or fairly suggests a data transfer process in which the duration of a time window, which starts following an announcement pulse, is monitored and in which only those data signals are accepted at the receiver that are received during the predetermined time window.

The claimed invention is not obvious over the combined teachings of Komatsu and Sharp. The invention is also not obvious over the combined teachings of Komatsu and Sharp, and further in view of Van Lahr et al. (US 4,772,963, hereinafter "Van Lahr").

Van Lahr utilizes a magnetic head for reading from a magnetic tape. As such, the magnetic head is not disposed within a signal transfer channel, but it forms a terminal of the channel. The signal is indeed generated in the magnetic head (from the magnetic information of the tape passing by) for transfer into the data transmission channel.

More importantly, however, the Van Lahr disclosure does not fairly suggest accepting as a data signal only certain signal pulses that fall within a defined time window. The combination of Komatsu with Sharp and with Van Lahr, therefore, does not render obvious the invention defined in the independent claims.

The additional reference to Berger has been reviewed as well. While its teaching is acknowledged, Berger does not touch on the essential concepts defined in the independent claims. Berger does not, therefore, render the claims unpatentable in any combination with the remaining references.

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None of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 11. These claims are, therefore, patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-2 and 5-11 are solicited.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee in the amount of \$ 450.00 for response within two months subsequent to the shortened statutory period of pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith. Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Sterner LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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